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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/779,744	02/09/2001	Ryuichi Ikematsu	Q63112	5871
7590	07/28/2004		EXAMINER	JUNTIMA, NITTAYA
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20037-3202			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2663	

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/779,744	IKEMATSU, RYUICHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nittaya Juntima	2663	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 February 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION***Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to because in Fig. 1, "S31M" and "S32M" should be changed to "S31N" and "S32N," respectively. See specification on page 8, lines 13-18.

Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - the limitation "a virtual output queue buffer for storing reception data for eat

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output interface section to be a destination" recited in claims 7 and 14 lacks antecedent basis in the specification;

- on page 18, lines 3 and 4, "input" should be changed to "output."

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1-2, 4-9, and 11-17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- in claim 1, line 3, "said" should be deleted;

line 10, "and" should be changed to "or" as the selection circuits cannot switch both information input from an outside and information from one of the NxM schedulers at a front step at the same time, see page 8, lines 26-page 9, line 1 of the specification, and

line 10, "ones of" should be insert after "from;"

line 11, "ones of" should be inserted before "said" and "scheduler" should be changed to "schedulers;"

line 12, a colon should be changed to a semicolon;

line 14, "scheduler" should be changed to "schedulers;"

- in claim 2, line 2, an open parenthesis should be replaced with a comma;

line 3, a close parenthesis should be replace with a comma;

line 3, "said" should be changed to "a;"

- in claim 4, line 3, "(where....two)" should be deleted;

- in claim 5, line 3, "scheduler" should be changed to "schedulers;"

- in claim 6, line 3, "one of" should be inserted after "from;"

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- in claim 7, line 3, “queue)” should be changed to “queue;”
- claims 8-14 contain the same informalities as claims 1-7 above, therefore, the same corrections are required;
- claims 15-17 contain the same informalities as claim 1 with an addition that line 6 of the claims, “ multi-mode scheduler” should be changed to “apparatus.”

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 17 is a multi-mode scheduling *method claim* having a claim body of a multi-mode scheduler. The claimed steps are missing. Therefore, the claim is vague and indefinite.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-16 are allowed. The prior art alone or in combination fail to teach or make obvious on the following when considered in combination with other limitations in the claim:

Claims 1, 8, 15, and 16: (k-1)-pieces of selection circuits for switching allocated output port information input from an outside of said N×kM schedule or information from one of said

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N×M schedulers at a front step so as to be input to ones of said NxM schedulers as allocated output port information.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nittaya Juntima whose telephone number is 703-306-4821. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M - 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau Nguyen can be reached on 703-308-5340. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nittaya Juntima
July 21, 2004

Ng

Chau T. Nguyen

CHAU NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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